78. Needs of the Trivandrum Municipality.

MR. S. NATARAJA PILLAI (*Municipal Council, Trivandrum*) first spoke about the need for increasing the Government grant to the Trivandrum Municipal Council. Trivandrum being the capital of the State, people from all parts of the State resorted to it and the Council had to provide for them all the amenities of town life. Before the formation of Municipal Councils, the Trivandrum Town Improvement Committee was receiving a grant of Rs. 40,000 annually; but by a steady policy of retrenchment, it was reduced to Rs. 25,000 in 1103. Since then the expenditure had been increasing, resulting in a deficit budget year by year. With a deficit budget and a scanty grant which the Government were giving during the current year, the Municipal Council was seriously handicapped in launching many big and useful schemes, such as the acquisition of the cremation ground at Taikad, restoration of tanks, introduction of motor lorries for purposes of sanitation, etc. The Government should therefore sympathetically consider the matter and restore the original grant.

A proper drainage scheme for the Trivandrum town was an absolute necessity. The construction and repair of drains was vested in the P. W. Department and it was therefore the duty of the Government to afford all drainage facilities. The sewage water now collected in the Putharikandam fields was a source of several diseases. The Council had already passed a resolution on the subject and requested the Government to work out a proper drainage scheme.

A poor-house was another indispensable thing for the town. When the subject was discussed in the Legislative Council, it was stated on behalf of the Government that it was a matter for the Municipality to take up. But the Municipality would be able to meet only one-fourth of the total cost involved. According to municipal statistics, there were 200 beggars in the town, besides those from the sea-coast villages. The beggars were a source of nuisance and a menace to the public health as most of them were suffering from chronic and contagious diseases. The Government should therefore view the question sympathetically and open a poor-house, preferably somewhere near *Kanjipura* so as to benefit the people of the coast villages also.

The next point was about the removal of liquor shops from within the municipal limits. Perhaps the answer to the prayer would be to await the result of the experiment that was being carried on at Changanacherry. But an experiment in one place was not sufficient. It should be tried in 3 or 4 places. Some of the shops were located in very busy centres, for instance, opposite the Law College. They at least should be removed.

The Chalai and the Karuppattikadai roads were so crowded and the traffic thereon so heavy that it was not safe for pedestrians. It was therefore highly necessary to widen those roads. That point would probably be referred to the Road Board.

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With the completion of the new railway station at Tampanur, the Kochar road would become important. It should therefore be widened. That road would also serve as a relief road to the parallel Chalai bazaar road.

About a third of the population of the town was Tamil-speaking. Yet it was a pity that there was not even a single Tamil school there. Two or three Tamil Elementary schools might therefore be opened in Tamil speaking centres.

The Putharikandam should be handed over to the Municipal Council with a view to convert the northern portion of it into a park and play-ground and the southern portion into a grazing ground.

The Council had already approached the Government for the preparation of a town planning scheme and agreed to bear 25 per cent. of the cost. The Government had also accepted the offer. The matter should be expedited.

The Chalai main road and the main road leading to Chackai contained many narrow and sharp bends dangerous to traffic. They should be eased.

The main road was very congested and one of the ways of relieving the congestion was to redistribute the Government offices on the sides of the road.

The member's next request was that the Trivandrum town should be included as a "health unit" in the new scheme to be worked out by the Public Health Department.

Lastly, the Electrical Department was lighting only 12 miles of roads in the town. The remaining portions should also be provided with electric lights at an early date.

DEWAN'S REPLY: Mr. Nataraja Pillay, your first point is about the enhancement of the grant to the Municipality. You say that it has to provide for the amenities of people of all parts of the State. Trivandrum being the capital, people of other parts naturally resort to it and it is on that account that, to some extent, Government have been giving larger amounts as grant to this Municipality when compared to other Municipalities. This year also Government are allowing a grant of Rs. 12,000. You say that this is not enough for the various schemes that you have in view. Well, all I can say is that you will have to cut your coat according to your cloth.

Then with regard to drainage, you say that resolutions have been passed by the Municipal Council. I do not want to repeat what Mr. Watts said at the last session of the Assembly about the resolutions of the Trivandrum Municipal Council, *viz.*, that the Municipality seems to be quite ready to pass resolutions and expects somebody else to take up the work of carrying out its resolutions.

MEMBER: The Municipality has no control over the drainage. It is the P. W. D. that has got it.

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DEWAN: You say that you have no control over drainage. Even if you are entrusted with that work, you say you have not the required funds. Hence Government have to do it. If there is one thing, more than anything else, that a Municipality has to attend to, it is the drainage of the town. Well, as I said, I do not want to refer to the various resolutions of the Municipal Council. So far as drainage is concerned, as you yourself say, Government have thought of taking it up. But it is a matter which requires investigation; and I expect to have the investigation taken up before long.

As regards poor-house, the Municipality should formulate a scheme and then send it up to Government.

My answer as regards prohibition is what you anticipated. Your suggestion with regard to the location of shops—you say there are some shops in front of schools, etc.,—will be considered.

Your points about means of communication will, as you yourself anticipated, be referred to the Road Board.

With regard to Tamil Elementary Schools, you cannot expect all schools to be opened by Government. It is a matter for private enterprise. As a matter of fact, there is a Tamil school at Chalai which is a private one. If such institutions are started, Government are prepared to help them with grants. Your suggestion that there should be at least two or three departmental schools will be noted.

The re-distribution of offices is perhaps an easy scheme to suggest but a difficult one to pursue; and I do not think I can say that Government are in a position to accept that suggestion of yours.

You say that Trivandrum must be selected as one of the health units. This matter has not yet been settled. Dr. Jacocks of the Rockefeller Foundation is investigating which localities should be made health units. Your suggestion that Trivandrum should be made a health unit will be referred to Dr. Jacocks and considered in that connection.

79. Needs of the Trivandrum taluk.

MR. T. K. PADMANABHA PILLAI (*Trivandrum taluk, Group I*) before talking upon his subject, supported the prayer of Mr S. Nataraja Pillai for the opening of Tamil schools in the Trivandrum town for the benefit of the Tamil speaking people.

DEWAN: You are not allowed to do that as it is not included in the memorandum of your subject.

The member then spoke on the need for the following public works in the taluk:—

(1) Extension of the new road from Petta to Kulattur. Two miles of the road had already been finished. There was still only a length of 1½ miles, which should be finished as early as possible.

(2) Conversion, into a cart road, of the foot-path from Kusakod to Trikkannapuram in the Anchamada *pakuthi*. The Minor Irrigation Committee had also recommended the road.

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